

Cranbrook launches space exploration, 1D

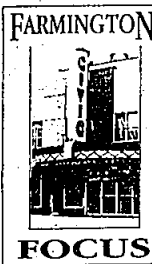


Hawks edge Falcons, 1B

Upholsterer shows community pride, 3A

Farmington Observer

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IF THE SHOE doesn't fit... donate it to the needy. That's the idea behind a statewide shoe collection drive for the homeless sponsored by the Michigan Podiatric Medical Association and the Salvation Army. Shoes will be collected at participating podiatrists' offices across the state... For more information, call 1-800-988-6762, or Bass' office at 855-8888.

CALLING ALL Farmington-area artists... especially those waiting to be honored as artists-in-residence. The Farmington Area Arts Commission is accepting nominations for the honor this month. Call Deborah Grant at 478-3556 to find out how and when to make a nomination. The awards ceremony will be held April 26 at the Farmington Community Center.

SPEAKING OF the Farmington Area Arts Commission, it offers \$50 to each public and private school in this community. The funds might help pay for an artist's lecture or demonstration, an ensemble from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, storytellers, puppet shows or similar productions. For more information, call Kay Briggs at 474-4680.

MEMORY LANE - From the Feb. 14, 1992 Farmington Express: A Coronado "Great 8" refrigerator was advertised for \$219 as part of the grand opening at the new Gambics store at 33405 Grand River in downtown Farmington. Also advertised: A Hiawatha "Seneca" bicycle for \$42.95 and galvanized laundry tubs at \$3.16 each. Beware of phony magazine salesmen who say they are raising funds for charity, Farmington police told residents. Such scam artists had been active in the Farmington area. Attractions at the Civic Theatre was "Neptune's Daughter" with Red Skelton and "Heart of the Rockies" with Roy Rogers. Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Farmington Hills resident Brian Lang, 21, faces felony firearms charges after a federal indictment was handed down this week. Lang is pictured here during a February 1991 hearing on other charges in 47th District Court in Farmington.

Charges name Hills gun buff

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A 21-year-old Farmington Hills man was named in a federal grand jury indictment Tuesday on felony firearms offenses. The indictment charges that... Mr. Lang knowingly possessed several firearms and destructive devices that were not registered to him... in violation of federal law," assistant U.S. attorney G. Gregory Schuetz said in a statement released Wednesday. Lang's attorney, Seymour Posner, said he expects Lang to turn himself in Thursday, when he will likely be arraigned on the charges. "This is what they charged him with originally, and they dropped it," he said. "Now they're at it again." He said he could not comment specifically on the indictment, because he had not yet seen it. Posner said Lang continues to work as a jeweler and is living at home in Farmington Hills. He defends Lang as a gun collector, a young man intrigued by firearms and military weapons. The indictment stems from the Feb. 11, 1991, raid on a house on Briarcrest Street in Franklin Knolls, south of 14 Mile and east of Northwestern Highway, where Lang reportedly lives with his family. There, according to police, Lang kept a number of firearms, military weapons and detonating devices, which were seized in the raid by officers from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Farmington Hills police. Schuetz said items seized in the raid and noted in the indictment included: one Uzi semi-automatic assault rifle with a shortened barrel; one nine-millimeter semi-automatic pistol modified with a vertical forward grip; two silencers; 29 pipe bombs constructed from polyvinyl chloride pipes and Pyrodex explosive; 11 bombs constructed from carbon dioxide compressed gas cylinders and Pyrodex explosive; three PVC pipe bombs attached to wooden dowels; one explosive device constructed from a .223 caliber cartridge casing and gunpowder; and components used in constructing an operational hand grenade. The 1991 raid came during the midst of last year's Persian Gulf War. Immediately after the raid, Lang was charged with possessing an unregistered short-barrel Uzi rifle. Unrelated to the weapons seizure, Lang was also charged with receiving and concealing stolen property of more than \$100, a felony, in connection with two scanner radios police say were stolen from the Detroit Board of Education offices. He posted 10 percent of a \$100,000 bond in March of last year, after his attorney got the bond reduced from \$1 million. A spokeswoman from the Oakland County Circuit Court said the receiving and concealing charge has yet to be scheduled for trial. Farmington Hills Deputy Police Chief Mirl Spencer said his department expected the charges to be filed, and was pleased with the progress in the case.

Trial begins in videotaped fireworks beating

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

"Money." That's the bottom line in the case against Detroit resident Cassandra Rutherford, who is accused of beating Farmington Hills resident Joanne was during the International Freedom Festival fireworks June 22, 1991, according to Rutherford's attorney, Cornelius Pitts of Detroit. "That money is why this case is here today," Pitts said, referring to a multi-million dollar lawsuit Was filed against the city of Detroit, Detroit council members and Wayne County about a month after she was beaten in front of the Omni Hotel on East Jefferson and Randolph. Rutherford is charged with intent to cause great bodily harm for allegedly beating Was, 43. She is the only one of six defendants to stand trial on charges in connection with the beatings of three suburban women, including Was, June 28. The others pleaded no contest to a variety of charges. Rutherford pleaded not guilty to the charge. From 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Pitts and Wayne County assistant prosecutor Lisa Lindsey picked a jury and questioned the first witness in the first day of Rutherford's trial before Recorder's Court Judge Vera Massey-Jones. THE MEDIA, Pitts said in his opening statement, has contributed to putting the case against Rutherford on the legal map. "When you see that video (taken by a bystander June 28 and aired over local TV stations)... you won't see this young lady (Rutherford). You won't see her at all." Pitts also told the jury that racial issues play a role in the case against Rutherford. "We're not condoning what transpired," he said about the beatings. But he told the jury that once Was gave chase to a group of black women whom she believed were bothering her daughters, "that's where confusion arises." While Lindsey asked prospective jurors about violence as a response to anger during the three-hour jury

Parents, coaches fight plan to limit high school athletes

Related editorial, 14A.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Parents and coaches in Farmington-area community sports clubs are beginning a letter-writing campaign against a proposed Michigan High School Athletic Association rule change. Expected to be considered by an MHSAA committee in May, the proposal would lighten rules regulating the number or types of teams a student can join during the school year. It would effectively force athletes to choose between playing on high school teams or in after-school club leagues in the same sport. Many parents and school officials feel when and how student athletes play is a personal choice and that the MHSAA is out of line. Others say the decision could do away with community sports, or possibly damage the makeup of school teams and ruin an individual student's chance at college scholarships. "We're saying let the parents make the decision," said Tom Faro, a junior varsity soccer coach at Farmington High School who also coaches off-season for the Farmington Soccer Club. "To force them (student athletes) to only play one season - they'll either be on the streets or playing Nintendo." - Tom Faro soccer coach



Tom Faro

Crime up in Hills after record '90 drop

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Peaks and valleys is how Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer describes the city's crime rate. That's particularly true with the almost 15-percent increase in serious crimes in 1991 compared to 1990's historical dip of more than 16 percent. "In 1990, we had the biggest decrease in the history of the department," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said. "There are peaks and valleys. We are going to experience these types of things. You can't get alarmed." FARMINGTON HILLS, however, wasn't alone with its increases in serious crimes. Oakland County as a whole crept up 5.3 percent, from 47,292 serious crimes compared to 44,810 in 1990, according to county statistics, which do not include the cities of Pontiac, Waterford, Lake Angelus or Michigan State Police data. There were five homicides in 1991 compared to none the previous year. Two of the incidents were murder-suicides involving, in one case, a husband and wife, and in another, former lovers. Oakland County had 32 murders in 1991 compared to 18 in 1990. Another murder, the shootings of two Detroit men at a house on Inkster and Eight Mile, repre-

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